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Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Note verbale dated 30 March 2015 from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva addressed to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council and has the honour to enclose herewith the joint statement by the delegations of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The Permanent Mission requests that the joint statement be published as a document of the twenty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council, under agenda item 9, in all official languages of the United Nations.

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

Joint statement at the twenty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council by the delegations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Tajikistan on the seventieth anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War

Seven decades have passed since the historic victory in the Great Patriotic War, 1941–1945. The ninth of May, which we celebrate with tears in our eyes, embodies the enduring feat of peoples who defended their homelands. This day will forever remain a symbol of their selflessness and heroism in the defence of freedom and human dignity, of the right to determine one's fate. Our peoples made a colossal and decisive contribution to the crushing defeat of Nazism and the salvation of all of Europe from the plague of fascism.

Untold suffering and destruction was wrought by the Second World War: one of the most awful tragedies ever to befall the peoples of the world, it lasted six and a half years, taking tens of thousands of human lives. The peoples of our countries bore the greatest human and material losses in this war.

We mourn all those who perished while fighting Nazism on the battlefields, martyred in the concentration camps and Nazi torture chambers or as victims of the Holocaust. We call for the preservation of the sacred memory of those who died while fighting Nazism.

The courage of the peoples of Europe and of the entire world who, side by side with us, stood up to Nazism, is highly valued; we are mindful of how much our allies in the anti-Hitler coalition did to assist in gaining our shared victory.

Yet it is with growing anxiety that we are observing cynical attempts to consign the lessons of the war to oblivion, to make twisted moral and legal judgements about the war, to blur the distinction between victim and executioner, to besmirch the sacred memory of the fallen, to rehabilitate Nazi criminals and collaborationists and to resurrect theories of racial and ethnic superiority.

We call upon the countries and peoples of the world to strenuously oppose these attempts to glorify the Nazi movement, revive fascist ideology and spread xenophobia and racism.

We have become wary, based on our historical experience, of theories about the superiority of one nation over others. We reject any intolerance, discrimination, extremism or enmity grounded in ethnicity, race or religion. We are staunchly committed to fighting these threats and roundly condemn any attempts at condoning them.

We are deeply convinced that these phenomena must be extirpated; that neither political aims nor short-term advantages justify turning a blind eye to them. This is the lesson we have learned from our tragic experience of the past.

It is our shared duty not to allow a new tragedy to occur; to save future generations from threats to peace and security. And this will be the best tribute to the memory of those who won the fight for peace, freedom, democracy and human dignity, the best way to honour the victims of the Second World War.